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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

DATE DISTR. 22 JUN

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT Military Installations on the Island of Vis

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INFO. Not stated

 A marine regiment whose strength is reported to be about 1,200 men is located in the town of Vis on the Island of Vis.

- 2. There are about 250 soldiers in Stari Fort (Old Fort) on a hill just above Vis. During 1919 the fort was reconditioned and adapted for housing soldiers. An observation post, manned by 20 sailors and one officer, has been built above the fort. It has a very powerful radio transmitter with which it maintains constant contact with the Observation Command in Split and sends orders and information from this Command to the observation stations on Brac, Korcula and Hvar.
- 3. An airfield is located seven kilometers from Vis on the road to Komiza. This road was completely robuilt in 1948 and adapted for automobila traffic. The runway of the airfield is approximately 500 meters long and made of packed earth tit is to be rebuilt of cement during 1950. Although there is no perminent aviation unit stationed at the airfield, it is frequently used by training flights. The airfield is guarded by marines from Vis. In 1919, work was begun on the construction of three buildings which will be used to serve the airfield. They are located opposite the airfield, about 600 meters from the highway.
- 4. An observation post is located southwest of Komiza. It was completed at the end of 1948 and is equipped in the same way as the one above the fort near Vis. There is a well-camouflaged artillery emplacement made of reinforced concrete located on a hill just below the observation post. It contains one battery of long coastal guns of unknown type and caliber.
- 5. South of the highway which skirts the artillery emplacement, there are two barracks where rembers of the coastal battery are housed. This unit consists of about 1/10 soldiers under a first lieutenant and two other officers. South of the barracks and hidden from the sea, there is an ammunition dump for the coastal battery. The dump is connected with the main highway by a road through the fields.
- 6. Fortifications are being constructed along the entire southern coast, but principally in the region surrounding the town of Stupisce. A new road is being constructed from the main highway to the point beyond Stupisce. Some 4,500 contract laborers are employed in this area, and cement and iron equipment are unloaded daily from motor sailboats. Access to the area is forbidden.

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